

10/784,627

01AB005-A/ALBRP234USA

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A version of the claims is at pages 2-5. Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 3-5, 18, 19, 22 and 23 would be allowable if recast in independent form to include all limitations of respective base claims and any intervening claims. To this end, independent claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of cancelled claims 3, 18 and 22. Accordingly, it is now believed that the subject claims are in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 4, 7-11, 19 and 20 have been amended and claims 2 and 15-17 have been cancelled herein.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6-17, 20 and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 6-17, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kent (US 6,723,929). In view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner to independent claims 1, 12 and 20, this rejection is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

10/784,627

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CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP234USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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